

Claims

[c1] We claim:

1. A computerized method for determining a desired recipients email address comprising:

- a. choosing one or more target recipients;
- b. providing a unique email server address for each target recipient;
- c. providing two or more first target recipient's data items;
- d. guessing first target recipient's candidate email addresses from the unique email server address and data items;
- e. developing a known invalid email address at the unique email server address;
- f. sending a probe email addressed to the known invalid email address;
- g. monitoring the response of the target recipient email server for the unique server address to determine if a bounce occurs;
- h. recording that the email address cannot be found if no bounce occurs;
- i. sending an email to the first target recipient's first guessed email address;

- j. monitoring the response of the target recipient email server to determine if a bounce occurs;
- k. recording the valid email address if no bounce occurs;
- l. sending a second email to the target recipient's second guessed email address if a bounce occurs;
- m. repeating h, i, and k using the first target recipient's guessed email addresses in succession until j occurs or there are no other first recipient's guessed email addresses;
- n. guessing second target recipient's candidate email addresses;
- o. repeating h, i, j, k and l using a second target recipient's guessed email addresses.

- [c2] 2. A system to send email to target recipients with known email server addresses and with unknown email addresses comprising:
- a. a user interface operative to receive the desired target recipient's data items, and to provide either the valid email address or a message that the email address could not be found to the user;
 - b. a target recipient's email server operative with a known email server address and providing a bounce message in response to an failed attempt to deliver an email with an incorrect address;

c. an email address identifier send server connected to an email server networked with the target recipient's email server operative to guess a multiplicity of a target recipient's possible email addresses at the known domain name, based on the target recipient's data items, to send email to the guessed email addresses sequentially as requested, and to determine if all guessed email addresses have been sent an email;

d. an email address identifier read server connected to an email server networked with the target recipient's email server and operative to guess from the target recipient's data items a multiplicity of a target recipient's possible email addresses at the known domain name, to determine if a particular guessed email address has been sent an email by the email address identifier send server, to identify a valid email address if no bounce message is received from the target recipient's email server, recognize a bounce message from the target recipient's email server, and to request the email address identifier send server send the next guessed email address an email upon receipt of a bounce message, or identify the email address could not be found if all guessed email address have been sent an email by the email address identifier send server; and

e. a database server operative to maintain a record of results of the send server and read server operation.

- [c3] 3. A system to send email to target recipients with unknown email addresses as in claim 2 further comprising the user interface is an Internet wide world web server with computer-executable instructions for email address identification.
- [c4] 4. A system to send email to target recipients with unknown email addresses as in claim 2 further comprising the user interface is a computer with computer-executable instructions for email address identification.
- [c5] 5. A system to send email to target recipients with unknown email addresses as in claim 2 further comprising the user interface is a computer with computer-executable instructions for email address identification and with computer-executable instructions for maintaining an address book.
- [c6] 6. A system to send email to target recipients with unknown email addresses as in claim 2 further comprising the database server is a computer with computer-executable instructions for a database identifying potential and actual customers or clients.
- [c7] 7. A system to send email to target recipients with un-

known email addresses and known data items and email server address comprising:

- a. a database server;
- b. an email server;
- c. a target recipient email server with a known address and programmed to provide a bounce message in response to a request to deliver an email with an incorrect address;
- d. an email address identifier send server programmed to:

- receive a target recipient data items and a target recipient email server address,

- guess a multiplicity of possible email addresses from the target recipient data items and target recipient email server,

- send email through the email server to the guessed email addresses sequentially as requested,

- record email sent on the database server;

- e. an email address identifier read server programmed to:

- receive a target recipient data items and a target recipient email server address,

- guess a multiplicity of possible email addresses from the first and last name and domain name,

determine if a particular guessed email address has been sent an email by the email address identifier send server,
identify a valid email address if no bounce message is received from the target recipient email server,
recognize a bounce message from the target recipient's email server,
request the email address identifier send server send the next guessed email address an email upon receipt of a bounce message,
identify the email address could not be found on the database server if all guessed email address have been sent an email by the email address identifier send server; and
f. a user interface programmed to provide the target recipient's data items and target recipient email server address to the email address identifier send and receive servers, and to receive either the valid email address, or a message that the email address could not be found.

[c8] 8. A system to send email to target recipients with unknown email addresses as in claim 7 further comprising the user interface is an Internet wide world web server with computer-executable instructions for email address

identification.

- [c9] 9. A system to send email to target recipients with unknown email addresses as in claim 7 further comprising the user interface is a computer with computer-executable instructions for email address identification.
- [c10] 10. A system to send email to target recipients with unknown email addresses as in claim 7 further comprising the user interface is a computer with computer-executable instructions for email address identification and with computer-executable instructions for maintaining an address book.
- [c11] 11. A system to send email to target recipients with unknown email addresses as in claim 7 further comprising the database server is a computer with computer-executable instructions for a database identifying potential and actual customers or clients.
- [c12] 12. A system for determining an email address comprising:
 - a. means for obtaining the target recipient data items;
 - b. means for obtaining the target recipient's email server address;
 - c. means for guessing a multiplicity of the target re-

recipient's possible email addresses;

d. means for testing the multiplicity of the target recipient's possible email addresses until a valid address is found.